

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
CIVIL AIR PATROL  
AND THE MANAGER,  
NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM**



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### INTRODUCTION

The National Communications System (NCS), a confederation of Federal government organizations, and Civil Air Patrol (CAP), representing CAP's national communications network, have cooperated in a series of national level communications exercises. These have demonstrated the capability of CAP radio operators (fixed and mobile stations) to respond to simulated emergencies when normal communications are disrupted. These tests confirm that Civil Air Patrol is a valuable national resource whose communications capabilities should be utilized, further developed and exercised to improve our national security emergency preparedness (NSEP) posture.

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to establish a broad framework of cooperation and a close working relationship between the Manager, NCS, and CAP for crisis or emergency communications functions. It is intended through joint coordination and exercise of the resources of both organizations to enhance the nation-wide posture of telecommunications readiness for any conceivable crisis or emergency.

## II. RESPONSIBILITIES

CAP was established on December 1, 1941, as an emergency action to make civil aviation pilots and aircraft available for national defense. Following its wartime service, CAP was chartered by the 79th Congress on July 1, 1946, as a volunteer, nonprofit corporation. On May 26, 1948, the 80th Congress passed Public Law 557 which granted CAP status as the civilian auxiliary of the Air Force. The law authorized the Secretary of the Air Force to provide certain limited support to the fulfillment of CAP objectives and to use the services of CAP in carrying out the noncombatant mission of the Air Force. These objectives include search and rescue, emergency services, disaster relief and aerospace education. This Memorandum of Understanding provides for CAP to assist the NCS in support of national security emergency preparedness telecommunications requirements as outlined in Executive Order 12472, "Assignment of National Security and Emergency Preparedness Telecommunications Functions," April 3, 1984.

The NCS is a confederation of Federal organizations established by Executive Order 12472. The mission of the NCS is to assist the President, the National Security Council, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the Office of Management and Budget in:

- The exercise of their wartime and non-wartime emergency functions and their planning and oversight responsibilities.

In addition to other responsibilities assigned by Executive Order 12472, the Manager, NCS, develops plans, standards and procedures for the management of Federally-owned and leased telecommunications assets during disasters and emergencies declared under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-288). The Manager, NCS, also administers a joint Restoration Priority system with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ensure that all available telecommunications resources are used to meet the most critical requirements under emergency conditions. The NCS is also given primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation of National Security Decision Directive 97, National Security Telecommunications Policy, under the direction and guidance of the Executive Office of the President.

### III. RECOGNITION

The Manager, NCS, recognizes that CAP, because of its extensive communications resources, can be of valuable assistance in providing or restoring critical communications of the Federal government under conditions of crisis or emergency when normal lines of communication are disrupted.

CAP recognizes that the mission of the NCS is to assist in coordinating the provisioning or restoration of the NSEP telecommunications needs of the Federal government under all circumstances. CAP further recognizes that because more than 95 percent of the Federal government's communications are provided by commercial carriers, crisis or emergency situations which affect such carriers may create a national requirement for assistance in the transmission of critical messages or in the restoration of Federal government communications.

#### IV. PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

So that communications facilities of CAP may be coordinated and utilized to the fullest advantage under conditions of crisis or emergency, and to the extent permitted or required by law and regulation, Civil Air Patrol and the Manager, National Communications System, have agreed that each will:

1. Encourage, through channels to its field units, on-going liaison with the other, urging its staff to create and maintain adequate communication and effective relationships at all levels.
2. Participate in cooperative pre-emergency planning, exercise and training programs.

3. Cooperate, in times of crisis or emergency, to meet the needs of the government and of the agencies and organizations attempting to initiate or restore communications.
4. Make its facilities, resources and capabilities accessible to the other in accordance with established plans and procedures.
5. Work through its own lines of authority and respect the lines of authority of the other.
6. Distribute copies of this agreement through channels to its own field units, and to other organizations, both public and private, which may have an active interest in emergency restoration of government telecommunications.

#### V. IMPLEMENTATION

This memorandum shall take effect upon its signing by authorized representatives of CAP and the Manager, NCS. This memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of both parties and will remain in effect until terminated. CAP and the Manager, NCS, will periodically review

this agreement and coordinate such revisions as may be necessary. Upon 90 days written notice, this memorandum may be terminated by either party.

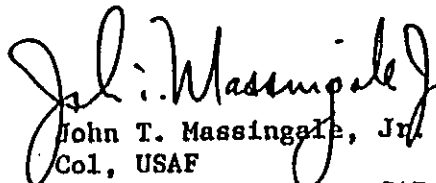
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